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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 MANAMA 001564

SIPDIS

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STATE FOR DS/IP/NEA, DS/ITA, DS/ATA, NEA/ARPI, S/CT, INL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/12/2014

TAGS: [ASEC](#) [BA](#) [PINR](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#)

SUBJECT: MINISTER OF INTERIOR: FOUR EXTREMISTS TO BE TRIED

Classified By: AMBASSADOR WILLIAM T. MONROE FOR REASONS 1.4 (c) and (d)

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SUMMARY
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11. (S/NF) Minister of the Interior Shaikh Rashid assured the Ambassador October 11, 2004 that the four extremists currently in detention would appear in court shortly, and that he had anticipated they would be brought to trial. (On October 13, BNSA advised the Embassy that the four will continue to be held until November 1, at which time they will be brought to court for trial.) Also during the meeting, the Minister discussed this week's GCC Interior Ministers meeting in Kuwait, during which he met bilaterally with his Saudi counterpart. Shaykh Rashid said Bahrain would take a proactive role in GCC security cooperation, including a possible follow-on meeting in Manama. The Minister described Bahrain as a safe place and assured continuing security cooperation between Bahrain and the U.S. The Minister expressed interest in improving Bahrain's consequence management capability and strengthening the country's Coast Guard. End Summary.

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THE FAMOUS FOUR
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12. (S/NF) During an October 11 call on Minister of Interior Shaykh Rashid bin Abdulla al Khalifa, the Ambassador asked about the next step for the four extremists whose current term of detention was expected to expire this week. Shaikh Rashid advised that the Attorney General will take the case to court. The four will likely be seen by a judge on October 12 for a hearing. (NOTE: BSNA advised late on October 13 that it was decided to extend the detention until November 1, at which time they will be brought to court for trial.) The Minister expressed his expectation that the four should be kept in jail for some time. In any event, he added, community support for them has dwindled, and they are no longer famous. Shaikh Rashid stated that they have a cooperative witness in the group and are monitoring the two men who were released last month and the four in custody. The Ambassador commented that the men must be brought into court and a trial held. This will send a message to the extremist leadership that Bahrain is not a place where terrorists can operate. He further inquired about the interrogation of the men while in custody. (NOTE: The Attorney General's office has not conducted effective interrogations of the four men). The Minister said he was transferring one of his senior officers to the Attorney General's Office to improve performance in that office. The Minister offered to call the Ambassador with news regarding the status of the four extremists.

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THE GCC MEETING
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13. (S) Shaikh Rashid had returned to Bahrain on October 10 from a GCC Interior Minister's meeting in Kuwait. He described a bilateral meeting with the Saudi Minister of Interior regarding security in the Kingdom. Both countries are working together on the terrorism problem, but it will take some time to resolve. He added that Bahrain and Saudi Arabia are cooperating and exchanging information on terrorists. The Saudi Royal family is getting stronger, in the Minister's opinion, by working with the people. All GCC Ministers agreed to exchange information and demonstrate resolve in the fight against terrorism. Shaikh Rashid indicated Bahrain would take a proactive role in GCC cooperation on security issues, including a probable follow-on meeting in Bahrain.

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SECURITY COOPERATION
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14. (S) The Ambassador underscored the importance of security cooperation and sharing intelligence between Bahrain and the U.S. The Minister assured the GoB's full support. Shaikh

Rashid wants to improve Bahrain's consequence management capability and strengthen the Coast Guard by adding more land, sea and air capability. RSO reviewed the July 2004 Coast Guard training program provided by DS/ATA and the robust schedule of ATA courses planned in 2004 and 2005. Major General Abdul Latif al Zayani mentioned the Deep Water Program, designed to integrate existing systems and improve the Coast Guard fleet of ships and aircraft. (NOTE: Post will explore the Deep Water Program and what it can provide for the MOI). The Ambassador thanked the Minister for the excellent security support provided for the SECDEF and 18 Ministers of Defense visit to Bahrain (10/10-11) along with the CNO's visit (10/11-12).

MONROE